

Amendments to Claims

1. **(Currently Amended)** A continuous hydrolytic polymerization process for the formation of polyamides or copolyamides comprising:
 - (a) polymerizing an aqueous salt mixture of diacids and diamines suitable to form a polyamide or copolyamide at between 225 and 250 °C [under conditions of temperature] and pressures and times sufficient [to yield a reaction mixture in multiple phases, but for a time sufficient] to avoid phase separation;
 - (b) transferring heat into said reaction mixture while reducing pressure of said reaction mixture to between 200 mmHg and atmospheric pressure [sufficient to remove the water therefrom without solidification thereof]; and
 - (c) further polymerizing said reaction mixture having the water removed and until a copolymerized product of desired molecular weight is achieved.
2. **(original)** The process of Claim 1 carried out in a natural circulation thermosyphon.
3. **(original)** The process of Claim 1 wherein one of the diacids is terephthalic acid.
4. **(original)** The process of Claim 1 wherein the polyamide is a random copolymer of polyhexamethylene terephthalamide and polyhexamethylene adipamide.
5. **(original)** The process of claim 1 wherein the polyamide is a random copolymer of polyhexamethylene terephthalamide and 2-methyl-pentamethylene terephthalamide.
6. **(previously amended)** The process of Claim 1 wherein step (b) is achieved using apparatus having a pressure drop sufficient to remove the water from said reaction mixture while transferring heat thereinto without solidification thereof.
7. **(original)** The process of Claim 6 wherein said pressure drop is at least 300 psig.
8. **(original)** The process of Claim 1 wherein the polyamides are selected from polymers and copolymers based upon PA-66 and PA-6T.